

REMARKS

I. Introduction

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to express appreciation to Examiner Trinh for the courtesy shown the undersigned during the telephonic interview on December 9, 2003.

In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

II. Status of the Application

Claims 1-15 are pending in the subject application and stand rejected. In the present Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-5 and 7-15 along the lines discussed during the above-mentioned telephonic interview. Applicant has also amended the Title.

III. Objection to the Title

The Title of the subject application was deemed to be "not descriptive". Applicant has amended the Title in the manner discussed during the Interview and which was indicated to be acceptable by the Examiner.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicant has amended claims 1-5 and 7-15 in the manners discussed during the Interview and which were deemed to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

V. Double Patenting

Claims 1-15 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-15 over copending Application No. 09/751,277. Responsive to this rejection, Applicant is herewith filing a Terminal Disclaimer and a check in the amount of

\$110 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.20(d). Accordingly, the double patenting rejection is deemed overcome.

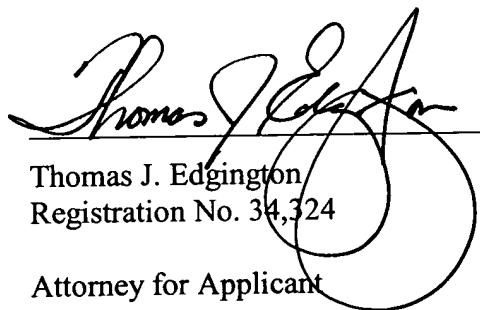
VI. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant is herewith enclosing a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. A check in the amount of \$180 is enclosed. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 11-1110 for any fee deficiencies associated with this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, the present Amendment and the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer.

VII. Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and passage to allowance of the subject application at an early date are earnestly solicited. If the undersigned can be of assistance in advancing the subject application to allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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